



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

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Sept. 29, 2010
STA10-160

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LANE CLOSURES CANCELED FOR SEPTEMBER 30 AND CHANGED FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-8 AT TRUCK CLIMBING LANE PROJECT

STAUNTON – There will be frequent lane closures during the first week of October at the Interstate 81 truck climbing lane project in Rockbridge County. All work is weather permitting. Motorists should anticipate possible delays in this area.

Blasting will occur on Oct. 5 and Oct. 7 at 1 p.m. The blasting locations will be on I-81 between mile markers 197 to 199. Signs are posted in this area. Both northbound and southbound lanes will have a rolling mobile lane closure.

The nighttime lane closures previously scheduled for Sept. 30 are canceled. Nighttime northbound lane closures will be on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5. The closure will be from 8:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. each evening. All northbound lanes will be closed between exit 195 and exit 200 and the left southbound lane will be closed from mile marker 198.8 to 198.6. The northbound traffic detour takes traffic off I-81 at exit 195 in the Lexington and Timber Ridge area onto Route 11 north and then onto Route 710 west to I-81. Traffic will be rejoining I-81 at exit 200, which is at Route 710 in the Fairfield area. This closure is for setting of structural steel for the Route 712 Bridge.

Additional southbound lane closures are planned for Oct. 6 and Oct. 7. Both southbound lanes will be closed between exit 200 and exit 195 from 8:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. The southbound traffic detour takes traffic off I-81 at exit 200 in the Fairfield area onto Route 710 east to Route 11 south and then rejoining I-81 at exit 195 in the Lexington and Timber Ridge area. This closure is for setting of structural steel for the Route 712 Bridge.

The blasting is part of the I-81 truck climbing lane project in Rockbridge County. The work zone is along the northbound lanes from mile marker 195.6 to 202.5, which is just north of Lexington.

Blasting days will change weekly depending on project progress. Both northbound and southbound lanes will have a rolling mobile lane closure. Traffic will be slowed down so the blast area is clear of traffic during the actual blast period. Traffic will immediately resume through the area once conditions are deemed safe by crews at the site. Blasting operations are estimated to continue through November.

The I-81 truck climbing lane project valued at \$74.2 million was awarded by Commonwealth Transportation Board on Feb. 5, 2009 to W. C. English Inc. of Lynchburg. Completion is scheduled for fall 2012. The work zone is along the northbound lanes from mile marker 195.6 to 202.5, which is just north of Lexington.

The VDOT Staunton District serves Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge, Alleghany and Bath counties.

Traffic alerts and traveler information can be obtained by dialing 511. In areas where 511 is unavailable, dial 1-866-MY511VA (866-695-1182) (TTY/TDD users, call 711). Traffic alerts and traveler information also are available at 511Virginia.org.

VDOT can be followed on Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and You Tube. RSS feeds are also available for statewide information. The VDOT webpage is located at www.VirginiaDOT.org.

Highway safety is everyone's responsibility. Virginia's highway safety partnership — the Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and Virginia State Police — challenges you to help prevent highway fatalities. Buckle up. Avoid distractions. Share the road. Drive drug- and alcohol-free. Obey speed limits. For more information on the Highway Safety Challenge and things you can do to avoid becoming Virginia's next traffic fatality, visit www.safeVAhighways.org.

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